

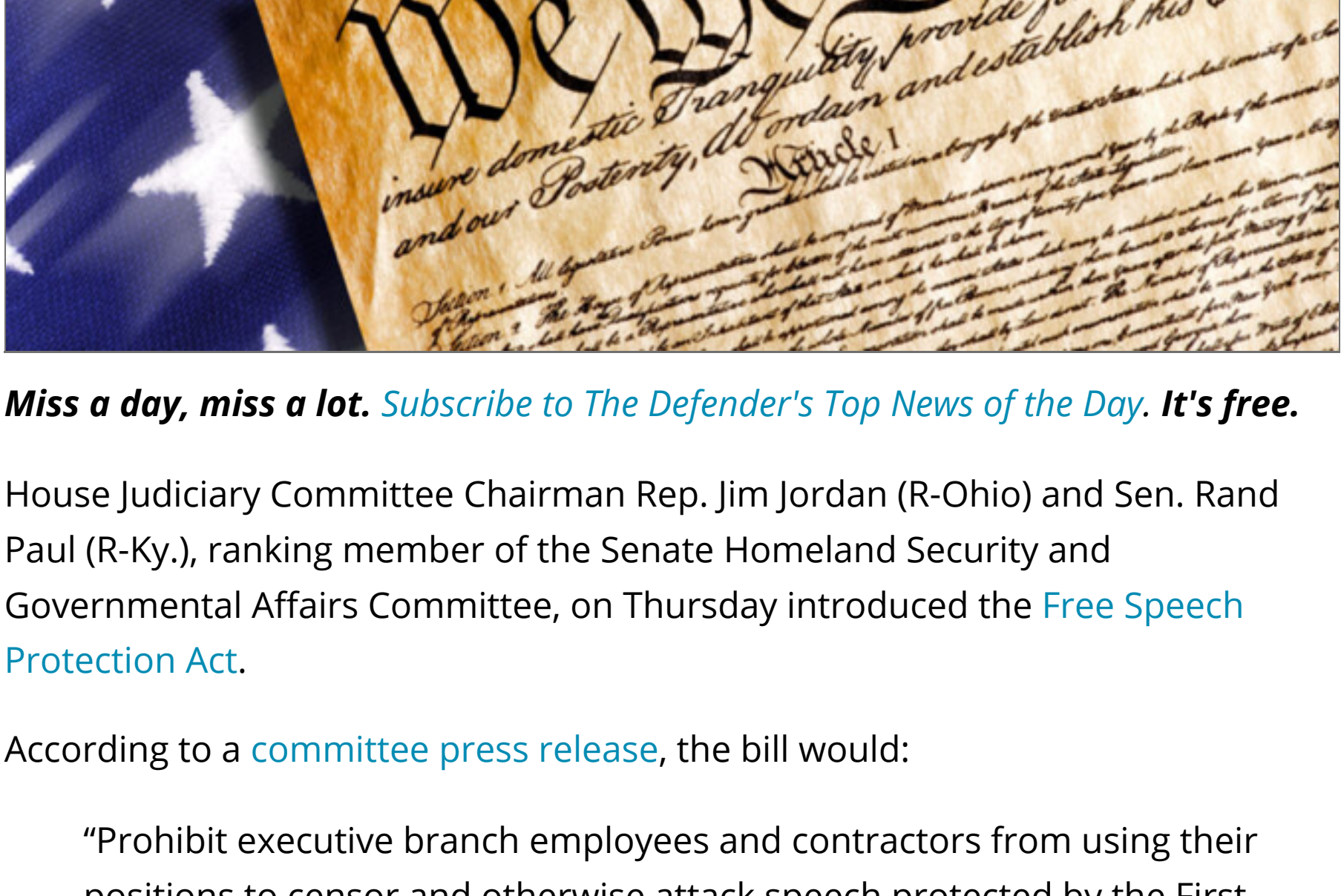
07/24/23 • [BIG TECH](#) > NEWS

Lawmakers Introduce Free Speech Protection Act to Curb Government Censorship

House and Senate legislators introduced a new bill Thursday aimed at stopping federal employees from censoring free expression. The move follows recent hearings probing allegations of collusion between government agencies and Big Tech to silence protected speech.

By [Monica Dutcher](#)

 17



Miss a day, miss a lot. [Subscribe to The Defender's Top News of the Day. It's free.](#)

House Judiciary Committee Chairman Rep. Jim Jordan (R-Ohio) and Sen. Rand Paul (R-Ky.), ranking member of the Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee, on Thursday introduced the [Free Speech Protection Act](#).

According to a [committee press release](#), the bill would:

"Prohibit executive branch employees and contractors from using their positions to censor and otherwise attack speech protected by the First Amendment. [It] will also impose mandatory severe penalties for those executive branch employees who censor speech."

The proposed legislation comes on the heels of Thursday's contentious [U.S. House of Representatives hearing](#) of the Subcommittee on the Weaponization of the Federal Government, which was organized to "examine the federal government's role in censoring Americans," "[Big Tech's](#) collusion with government agencies to silence speech" and the ongoing Missouri v. Biden lawsuit alleging [government censorship](#).

[Robert F. Kennedy Jr.](#), chairman on leave from [Children's Health Defense](#) (CHD), testified during the hearing despite [attempts to prevent him](#) from doing so.

According to Jordan:

"Censorship is a major threat to freedom today. It is clear that Big Government must be more transparent, and that bureaucrats must be held accountable for censorship.

"The Free Speech Protection Act accomplishes that and gives individuals remedies for censorship to protect vital First Amendment freedoms."

As part of protecting Americans' First Amendment rights, the bill would also:

- Mandate frequent publicly accessible reports from the heads of executive branch agencies detailing the communications between an executive branch agency and Big Tech.
- Ensure that federal grant money is not misused to label media organizations as sources of [misinformation](#) or [disinformation](#).
- Terminate several programs and authorities that threaten free speech and other constitutionally protected rights.

Section 7 of the draft bill proposes the termination of the [U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Disinformation Governance Board](#) — and bars any similar organization from being formed or funded in the future.

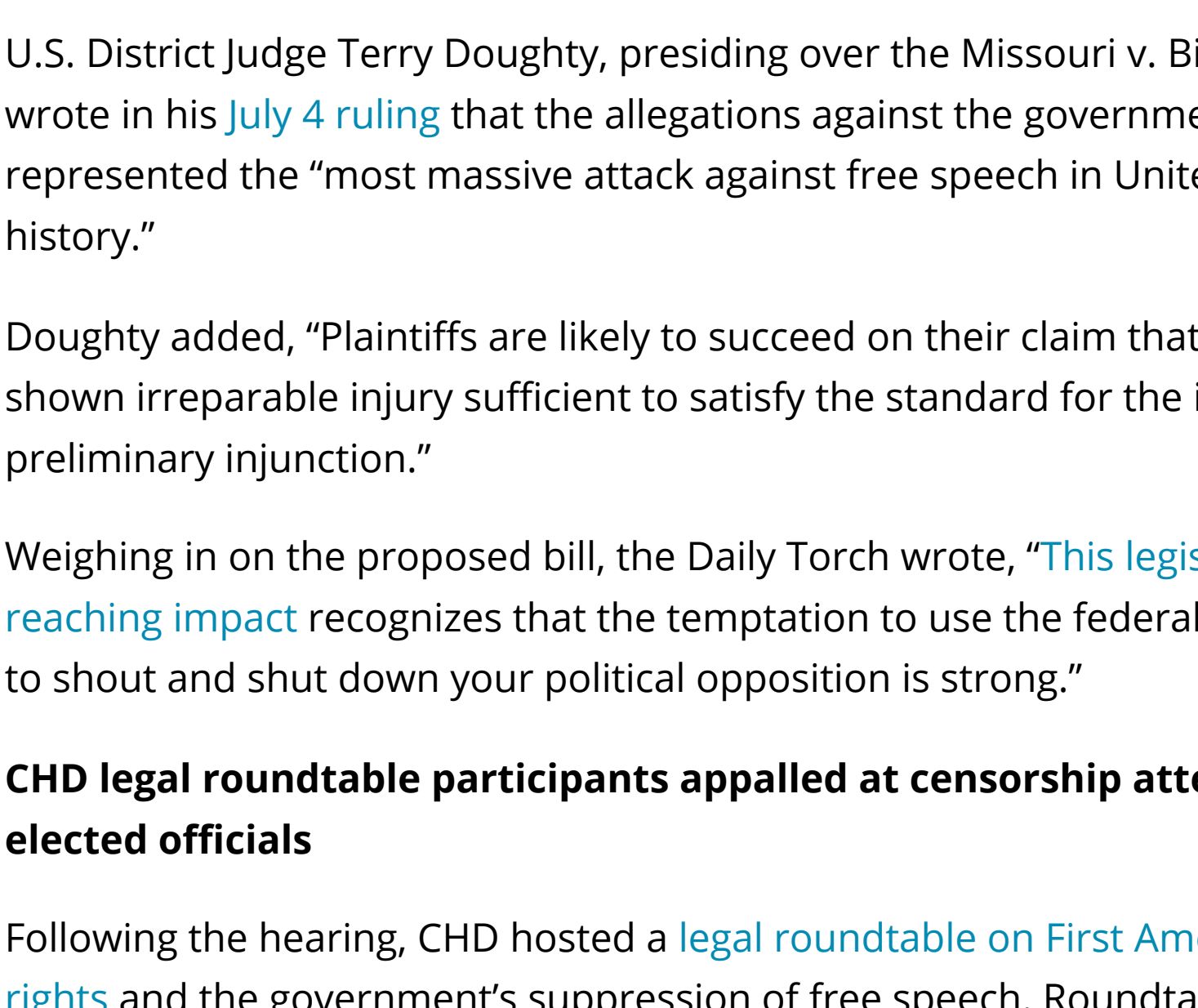
The bill would also require federal grant recipients to certify that funds are not being used to create lists of media outlets labeled as promoting misinformation or disinformation.

According to Paul:

"Americans are free people and we do not take infringements upon our liberties lightly. The time has come for resistance and to reclaim our God-given right to free expression.

"Under my Free Speech Protection Act the government will no longer be able to cloak itself in secrecy to undermine the First Amendment rights of Americans."

Bill co-sponsor Sen. Eric Schmitt (R-Mo.) told [Fox News](#) the bill would prevent the government from outsourcing censorship efforts to universities like Stanford and the University of Washington, both of which are defendants in a censorship [lawsuit](#) filed in May.



U.S. District Judge Terry Doughty, presiding over the Missouri v. Biden case, wrote in his [July 4 ruling](#) that the allegations against the government, if true, represented the "most massive attack against free speech in United States' history."

Doughty added, "Plaintiffs are likely to succeed on their claim that they have shown irreparable injury sufficient to satisfy the standard for the issuance of a preliminary injunction."

Weighing in on the proposed bill, the Daily Torch wrote, "[This legislation's far-reaching impact](#) recognizes that the temptation to use the federal government to shout and shut down your political opposition is strong."

CHD legal roundtable participants appalled at censorship attempts by elected officials

Following the hearing, CHD hosted a [legal roundtable on First Amendment rights](#) and the government's suppression of free speech. Roundtable participants criticized the subcommittee's attempt to censor a censorship hearing.

During the roundtable, [Rick Jaffe](#), an attorney who works with CHD on censorship-related cases, said:

"I never thought I'd see the day where Democrats would make such a blatant attempt to not only suppress speech but just to lie. The level of ad hominem attacks, I thought was ... let's just call it regrettable."

Kim Mack Rosenberg, CHD acting general counsel, said it was "really sad and somewhat painful to watch these very uncivil attacks on Mr. Kennedy and on others," adding that through such attacks, the First Amendment "got lost ... by a number of the committee members."

The roundtable addressed the July 4 [ruling in Missouri v. Biden](#) and CHD's involvement in two other censorship lawsuits: a [lawsuit against Facebook](#) in the 9th Circuit U.S. Court of Appeals and an [antitrust lawsuit](#) CHD filed against the [Trusted News Initiative](#), a consortium of legacy media companies.

Participants also discussed the possibility of Congress passing an anti-censorship law, with attorney Jed Rubenfeld calling for "a federal statute that stops the large social media companies from discriminating on the basis of political opinion."

According to Rubenfeld, [Florida and Texas recently passed state laws](#) with such provisions. And while it's unclear whether states possess such authority, Rubenfeld said, "The federal government certainly would" — via an amendment to [Section 230](#) of the [Communications Decency Act](#), which gives internet providers legal protections for hosting, moderating and removing most user content.

Such legislation could work in tandem with proposals like the Free Speech Protection Act.

Subscribe to The Defender – It's Free!

First Name... Last Name... Email... [SIGN UP](#)

SUGGEST A CORRECTION

 **Monica Dutcher**
Monica Dutcher is a Maryland-based senior reporter for The Defender.

Sign up for free news and updates from Children's Health Defense. CHD focuses on legal strategies to defend the health of our children and obtain justice for those injured. We can't do it without [your support](#)

Republishing Guidelines

Children's Health Defense Comment Policy

We welcome relevant and respectful comments. Off-topic comments may be removed.
Please read our [Comment Policy](#) before commenting.

[Get it](#)

17 Comments [Login](#)

 Join the discussion...

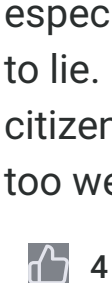
LOG IN WITH OR SIGN UP WITH DISQUS 

 Name

 2  [Best](#) [Newest](#) [Oldest](#)

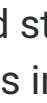
 **jprexena** 23 days ago
What is to say this bill is passed under the guise of protecting "free speech", when in reality they will do the opposite? Not only will the uniparty, authorities, and the overlords infringe the first amendment, but will infringe other natural rights as well. The more laws created equal less freedoms. You will always have those who will desire control and power over others. Government is slavery. You have plenty of stupid, ignorant, arrogant, and evil people who will feel they have authority over you. Philosophies never change.

 7  0 [Reply](#) [Share](#)

 **Heisenberg**  jprexena 23 days ago
Exactly, just like the Patriot Act was pitched as legislation to prevent terrorism, but when you read the fine print it essentially gives the feds massive surveillance powers over communications and financial transactions of ordinary American citizens.

 5  0 [Reply](#) [Share](#)

 **robertsgt40**  Heisenberg 22 days ago
"Free Speech Protection Act"?
I thought that was called the 1st Amendment

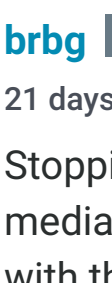
 1  0 [Reply](#) [Share](#)

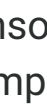
 **freedomandjusticeforall**  jprexena 23 days ago
Some laws are necessary. Just like in sports, we need rules to stop those in power from running over the rest of us, as they have been.

 1  0 [Reply](#) [Share](#)

 **Heisenberg**  freedomandjusticeforall 23 days ago
And yet "those in power" are supposed to be the ones abiding by and enforcing the rules. If you need new rules to protect you from the so-called guardians of the rules then you have a completely dysfunctional system. If we need government to protect us from the government, think about the insanity in that statement.

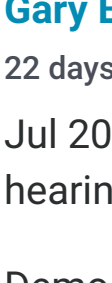
 2  0 [Reply](#) [Share](#)

 **BraveNewWhirl**  jprexena 23 days ago
Many are well aware that our politicians introduce very bad bills which typically do the opposite of their title. Of course you're right; why do we need a new law which does what adherence to our Constitution already does? Yeah that's bad English but I have an excuse: I went to government school.

 1  0 [Reply](#) [Share](#)

 **Caroline Cary Davidson** 23 days ago
It's beyond sad that lawmakers even have to propose such a bill, the First Amendment in our Bill of Rights should say it all. It shouldn't need any add on or extra protection, there's no "suspended in case of ***" clause, there's certainly no legal basis to use 'ouz we said so', especially in the case of the Executive Branch, the First Amendment even protects your right to lie. If it pisses somebody off, then that's a matter of civil courts, the fact that more US citizens are not screaming there heads off, is alarming, it means the fear porn worked much too well. I'll be contacting my Senator to ask him to co-sponsor.

 4  0 [Reply](#) [Share](#)

 **jaybird1705**  Caroline Cary Davidson 22 days ago
Once again, our legislators are playing We The People as chumps.

 0  0 [Reply](#) [Share](#)

 **Sara van O.** 23 days ago
Mr Kennedy should start his own party. I read somewhere (CNN ?) that there are more politically homeless independent voters than both the Democrat and Republican bases together, and centrists never completely agree with any one party's program. So a new party based on honesty and integrity and led by a politician who really cares about people (proven by facts and not slogans) cannot be but successful.

 1  0 [Reply](#) [Share](#)

 **Wendy** 23 days ago
Unless there is mandatory prison time in this bill, the carnage will continue. Forget fines, they don't work! We need mandatory prison time (defined as one year or more in prison) for all offenders.

 1  0 [Reply](#) [Share](#)

 **PonyBoy** 23 days ago
Trust, nobody.

 1  0 [Reply](#) [Share](#)

 **brbg** 21 days ago
Stopping government censoring on social media will work. Those working in social media and tasked with censoring are former FBI and CIA executives. They will communicate with the DOJ and then, acting as social media employees, will censor whatever the DOJ wants censored. Then they can claim they were only acting as employees of the social media companies, not the government.

 0  0 [Reply](#) [Share](#)

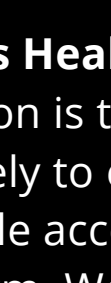
 **Delner** 21 days ago
More political theatre aimed at mollifying the, to them, surprising groundswell of anger slowly but surely developing across party lines.

 0  0 [Reply](#) [Share](#)

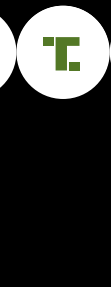
 **Gary Brown** 22 days ago
Jul 20, 2023 "You are trying to silence me and I won't let you!" - Robert Kennedy, Jr. at Senate hearing

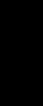
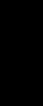
Democrats just tried to prevent Robert F Kennedy Junior from testifying at a censorship hearing. The irony is just too thick. Senator Debbie Wasserman Schultz led the attack with baseless conspiracy theories against Kennedy but Kennedy may have just solidified his position as the Democratic front runner after his impassioned speech.

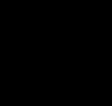
 0  0 [Reply](#) [Share](#)

 **Dr Divago** 23 days ago
It's unclear to me why we would need a "Free Speech Protection Act" when we already have the First Amendment to the United States Constitution. What part of "Congress shall make no law (...) prohibiting the free exercise thereof, or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press" is unclear?

 0  0 [Reply](#) [Share](#)

 **freedomandjusticeforall** 23 days ago
Great Act. I hope it passes, ie that at least a handful of Democrats remember why they got into politics in the first place.

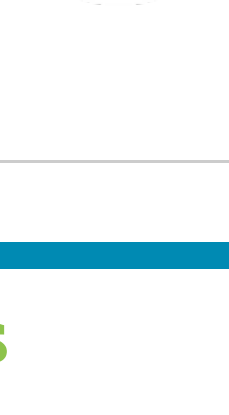
 0  0 [Reply](#) [Share](#)

 **Meave G.**  freedomandjusticeforall 23 days ago
Everyone gets into politics for control.

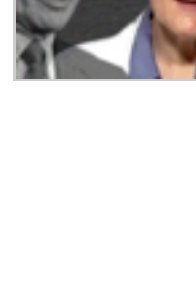
 1 0 [Reply](#) [Share](#)

 [Subscribe](#) [Privacy](#) [Do Not Sell My Data](#)

Donate Now
You make the difference.

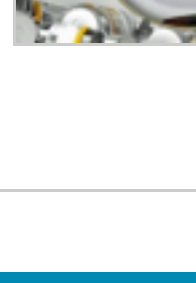
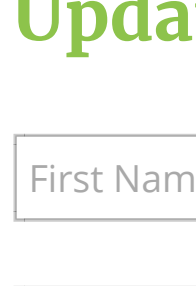
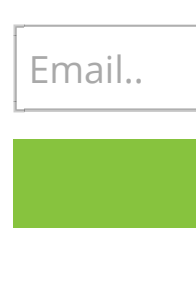


Latest News

-  **Dr. Pierre Kory: Why We Wrote the USA Today Op-ed on Excess Deaths — and Why We Never Mentioned 'Vaccines'**
-  **CRISPR Gene Editing: New Evidence of 'Potentially Irreversible Safety Risks'**
-  **'A Fauci Clone': New NIAID Director Oversaw Remdesivir Trials, Has Ties to Biosafety Lab Research**

[MORE NEWS](#)

Latest Views

-  **What's Behind the Rapid Spread of Red Meat Allergy — Ticks? Vaccines? Something Else?**
-  **Review Adds to Evidence That Glyphosate Weekkillers Cause Cancer**
-  **New Book by Doctors for COVID Ethics Details Dangers of mRNA Vaccines**

[MORE VIEWS](#)

Get FREE News & Updates!

First Name...

Last Name...

Email...

[SIGN UP](#)